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HEALTH 4 OCT 1944

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health to the West Penwith Rural District Council for the year 1943.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary administration of the Rural District of West Penwith for the year 1943 together with the vital statistics in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health's Circular.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. HADFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health.	Dr. R. H. Hadfield.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.	J. H. M. Craze.
Sanitary Inspector.	J. W. Hitchens (On active service)
Assistant to Sanitary Inspector.	J. H. Nicholas.
Public Analyst.	Dr. Pendrill Charles.

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SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of Civil Parishes contained in the District 61,088 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population	17,870
Number of inhabited houses is approximately	5,520
Rateable value	55,200
Sum represented by penny rate	£232. 8. 7d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	254	133	121
Illegitimate	22	11	11

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, 1943: 15.4
National Birth Rate : 16.5

Still Births	Total	Males	Females
	8	5	3

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births : 27.8

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths	267	125	142

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population, 1943 : 14.9
National Death Rate : 12.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes.	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

	Total	Males	Females
Infantile deaths	11	7	4

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births	39.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	35.5
Illegitimate " " " illegitimate "	91.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	45
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1

HOUSING.

(i) Total number of houses inspected for Sanitary defects under Housing Acts.	17
(ii) Number of houses to be dealt with under Section 9	2
(iii) Number of houses to be dealt with under Section 11	13
(iv) Remedy of defects by informal Notices.	19
(v) Number of overcrowding reported during the year	5

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INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Owing to war conditions, all the meat for West Penwith is slaughtered in the Borough of Penzance.

Other food condemned as unsound:-

Tinned Meat.	1,682 lbs.
Tinned Fruit.	391 tins.
Tinned Fish.	101 tins.
Tinned Milk	581 tins.

Meat condemned in Butchers' shops and returned to centre approximately 119 lbs.

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WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supplies of the district are much the same as in previous reports.

Much difficulty has been experienced in maintaining the supplies in the extreme rural areas, such as Gwithian, Gwinear, St. Erth, Ludgvan, St. Hilary, Perranuthnoe and Sennen. The acute problem presents itself each summer. It is to be hoped that in the Government's Water Bill there will be found bold proposals to deal with this question without unduly overburdening the consumers.

It is also to be hoped that in considering the Bill, the needs of the Rural Schools which, at the moment, have neither water supplies, and through the lack of it, decent sanitation, will not be overlooked. Also the claims of the Farms to a water supply, for if clean milk is to be produced then surely the water supply to these places cannot be denied.

The supplies to population over one thousand have been chlorinated in accordance with the Ministry's instructions.

HOUSING IN THE DISTRICT.

The situation of the housing conditions is much the same as in previous reports. The Inspector is making the Returns for the Post-War Programme.

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CAMPING SITES.

Several visits have been paid to the Camping Sites and all licences have been renewed.

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CIVIL DEFENCE.

In general with other Local Authority staff, much time has to be devoted to Civil Defence work such as war damage, static water, shelters and salvage.

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SHOPS ACT.

Forty-nine visits have been paid to the shops within the district under the Shops Act, and found to be satisfactory.

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SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewage systems in the district have been working fairly satisfactorily. ------oOo------

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA: During 1943 the work of immunisation was continued, the regular Clinic being carried on at Hayle and sessions also being held whenever required at the following places:- Marazion, Ludgvan, St. Erth, Goldsithney and Gwinear. By the end of the year well over 3,500 children had received a complete course of immunisation since this work was begun, and the official return for the year ending December 31st. 1943 showed that after making full statistical correction for the members passing out of and into the various age groups 71 per cent of children (0-5 years of age) or 88 per cent 1-5 years and 88.9 per cent 5-15 years were immunised as at December 31st. 1943. No cost has been incurred by your Council in regard to the work of immunisation. District Nurses have given their services free and a large amount of help has at all times been received from the Auxiliary Nurses of the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TREATMENT OF SCABIES: During the year just ended 130 separate cases of Scabies, both adults and children, (evacuees and otherwise) from the West Penwith District were dealt with as out-patients at the Scabies Clinic held at the First Aid Post, Hayle. I would like to draw your Council's attention to the excellent work which is carried on at this Clinic. Through the kindly co-operation of the County Medical Officer (Dr. Curnow) the First Aid Post and its trained nursing staff have been placed freely at my disposal, the only expense which is entailed by West Penwith being the actual cost of the drugs and materials used for treatment.

Patients requiring In-patient treatment were admitted to the Scabies Hostel at Penzance and approximately twenty cases were admitted from West Penwith, chiefly evacuees. No cost is incurred by your Council in regard to these, but in regard to non-evacuee children a charge is made to cover the actual cost of maintenance and treatment.

Particulars of notifiable diseases reported during the year 1943 are set out in the accompanying table:-

Disease.	Total cases notified.	No. admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria.	33	30	1
Scarlet Fever.	6	5	Nil
Whooping Cough.	8		Nil
Erysipelas.	2		Nil
Measles.	11		1
Pneumonia.	19		5
Puerperal Pyrexia	1		Nil
Enteric Fever.	2		Nil
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	1		Nil
Malaria (recurrent)	1	1	Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases		Deaths	
	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
0 - 5				
5 - 15	2	2		
15 - 25	2	3		
25 - 35	1	1	2	
35 - 45	3		3	
45 - 55	2	1	3	
55 - 65				
TOTAL	10	7	8	-